

Applicant elects Species III, the embodiment claimed in Figure 9, without prejudice to any future patent application directed to the same or similar subject matter.

The cancellation of the cancelled figures is not intended to reflect on the merits of the cancelled figures or the merits of any statements or conclusions offered by the Examiner. Applicant does not believe the embodiments are patentably distinct, however, the cancellation of certain figures is made herein solely for the purpose of obtaining immediate examination of the outstanding elected figures. Applicant expressly reserves all rights to challenge, during the prosecution of any subsequent related application, the Examiner's grounds for restriction of the elected and the cancelled claims.

Having responded to the Examiner's concerns, Applicant asserts that the application is now in condition for allowance and solicits such action. If a telephone interview will advance the allowance of the application, enabling an Examiner's amendment or other meaningful discussion of the case, Applicant requests the Examiner contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Appl. No. 10/090,079
Amdt. dated April 21, 2004
Reply to Office action of February 13, 2004
Docket No. 01-10053

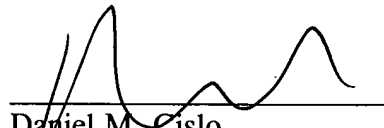
Customer Number
25189
Patent Trademark Office

It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's attorney's deposit account no. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,

CISLO & THOMAS LLP

Date: April 22nd, 2004


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